

**California Natives Friend or Foe?**  
**How Does Your Garden Rate for Wildfire?**  
*Characteristics of a Selection of Common Native Landscape Plants*

**Friend Characteristics**

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Mature Size (height by width)	Low total volume	Form (restricts air flow)	Leaf (low surface area to volume)	Little dead Material	High moisture leaves/ stem	Mineral content	Not Sensitive to Freeze
<i>Ceanothus gloriosus</i>	Pt. Reyes Ceanothus	Shrub	12" by 6' spread		✓		✓	✓		✓
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	western redbud	Shrub/ Small Tree	4-6' x equal spread	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>	Mountain Mahogany	Shrub/ Small Tree	5-12' by equal' spread	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Encelia californica</i>	California sunflower	Perennial	5' by equal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	Flannel bush	Shrub	6-20' by equal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	Silktassel	Shrub	4'-6' by equal spread	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Oceanspray	Shrub/ Small Tree	3-10' by equal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Leymus triticoides</i>	Creeping wildrye	Perennial Grass	1.5' tall	✓	✓		✓*	✓		✓
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	creeping barberry	low shrub	1-3' by 3'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Mimulus spp.</i>	Monkeyflower	Shrub	1-4' tall	✓	✓	✓	✓**	✓		✓
<i>Quercus agrifolia &amp; lobata</i>	Oak (coast live & valley)	Tree	40-60' by equal spread	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	coffeeberry	Shrub/ Small Tree	3-15" by 3-10' spread	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	lemonadeberry	Shrub	4-5' by 15' spread		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	flowering currant	Shrub	4-12' x equal spread	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓

**Foe Characteristics**

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Mature Size (height by width)	High total volume	Form (optimum air flow)	Leaf (high surface to volume)	Lots of Dead Material	Low moisture leaves/ stem	High Oil content	Sensitive to Freeze
<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	chamise	Shrub	12' by equal spread	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Adenostoma sparisifoium</i>	red shanks	Shrub	18' by equal spread	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i>	manzanita	Shrub/ Small Tree	6-20' x 4-10'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush	Shrub	1-5' tall by equal spread			✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Baccharis pillularis</i>	coyote brush	Shrub	3' by 9' spread	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Eriogonum fasciculaum</i>	Buckwheat	Shrub	1-3' by 4' spread			✓	✓	✓		
<i>Malaosma laurina</i>	Laurel sumac	Shrub /Small Tree	4-5' by 15' spread	✓	✓		✓			
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey pine	Tree	80-100'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Salvia clevelandii &amp; mellifera</i>	blue and black sage	Shrub	4' by equal spread	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	poison oak	Shrub	2-6' by equal	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
<i>Washintonia filifera</i>	California fan palm	Tree	50' tall		✓		✓	✓	✓	

\*Remove thatch build up on 3 - 5 year cycle

\*\*Dead wood accumulates when plant is stressed

# **Friend or Foe?**

## **How Does Your Garden Rate?**

*Characteristics of a Selection of Common Landscape Plants*

### **Friend Characteristics**

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Mature Size (height by width)	Low total volume	Form (restricts air flow)	Leaf (low surface to volume)	Little dead Material	High moisture leaves/ stem	Mineral content	Not Sensitive to Freeze
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	strawberry tree	Shrub/ Small Tree	3-25' x equal spread			✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	western redbud	Shrub/ Small Tree	4-6' x equal spread	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Feijoa sellowana</i>	pineapple guava	Shrub	10-25' x equal spread			✓	✓		✓	✓
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	flowering currant	Shrub	4-12' x equal spread			✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Rosa banksiae</i>	Lady Banks rose	Shrub	climbs to 20'	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
<i>Agapanthus africanus</i>	lily of the nile	Perennial	3' x 2'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Achillea</i>	yarrow	Perennial	4-5 x 1-2'	✓	✓		✓			✓
<i>Dietes bicolor</i>	fortnight lily	Perennial	2-4' x equal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Centaurea cineraria</i>	dusty miller	Perennial	1-2' x equal	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Gazania hybrids</i>	gazania	Groundcover	6 inch x 2'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>	myoporum	Groundcover	3 inch x 9'	✓	✓	✓	✓			
<i>Jasminum polyantheum</i>	jasmine	Vine	climbs to 20'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Passiflora alatocaerulea</i>	passion vine	Vine	climbs to 20-30'		✓	✓	✓	✓		

### **Foe Characteristics**

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Mature Size (height by width)	High total volume	Form (optimum air flow)	Leaf (high surface to volume)	Lots of Dead Material	Low moisture leaves/ stem	High Oil content	Sensitive to Freeze
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	black acacia	Tree	40' x 20'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	blue gum eucalyptus	Tree	150-200'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey pine	Tree	80-100'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i>	manzanita	Shrub/ Small Tree	6-20' x 4-10'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Baccharis pillularis</i> 'Pigeon Point'	dwarf coyote brush	Shrub	3' by 9'	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Dodonaea purpurea</i>	hopseed bush	Shrub	12-15' x same	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
<i>Genista and Cytisus spp</i>	broom	Shrub	6-8' x 5-6'	✓	✓	✓		✓		
<i>Juniperus spp</i>	juniper	Shrub/ ground cover	12"-15' x same	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	flax	Evergreen Perennial	9-12' x 10'	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
<i>Bambusa aurea</i>	golden bamboo	Giant grass	6-20' runners	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Pennisetum</i>	fountain grass	Giant grass	3-4' x 4-76	✓	✓		✓	✓		
<i>Hedra canariensis</i>	Algerian ivy	Groundcover	runners	✓	✓		✓			✓
<i>Rosmarinus officianalis</i>	rosemary	Groundcover	2-6' x 4-8'	✓	✓		✓		✓	